

Rural Capacity Grant PRE-APPLICATION FORM

The pre-application is designed to provide the Office of Community and Rural Affairs' (OCRA) staff with introductory knowledge of a community's project idea. This allows OCRA's staff to give feedback to the community. The completed pre-application will become the executive summary of the grant application.

The following questions are designed to provide a general understanding of the project and to ensure that it is in line with the spirit of the Rural Capacity Grant guidelines. Please fill out the section below and answer the questions in no more than four pages total.

1. Please briefly describe the community need being addressed and how this project will meet that need.
2. What community organizations do you foresee being partners in your effort?
3. What are the goals of the project and what measurable outcomes are expected?
4. What efforts will be pursued from the project's outset to ensure its sustainability at the end of the grant period?

See reverse side for more information.

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RURAL CAPACITY GRANTS



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What is a Rural Capacity Grant?

A Rural Capacity Grant is a non-competitive grant funding opportunity designed to allow 501(c)(3) organizations to build the capacity of rural communities to meet their needs in the areas of rural entrepreneurial support or workforce and educational development.

Who can apply for a Rural Capacity Grant?

Any 501(c)(3) organization properly registered with the Indiana Secretary of State or governmental entity in a rural area can apply.

Eligible entities include educational organizations, Community Foundations, local economic development organizations, workforce boards, Chambers of Commerce, Small Business Development Centers or other non-profit organizations.

How is rural defined?

A rural community is defined as having a population of 50,000 or less. County-wide or regional projects may serve a population greater than 50,000, but cannot benefit a city or town with a population greater than 50,000.

General Requirements:

- Applicants must contact their local Community Liaisons to discuss the scope of their projects prior to completing the pre-application form on the reverse side of this page. Community Liaisons will provide technical assistance throughout the application process. Visit www.in.gov/ocra/forms/map.pdf to find contact information for your area's Community Liaison;
- The proposed project must be new or expanded and serve a rural area;
- A non-profit organization must be the lead applicant;
- The project must be a collaborative effort of two or more entities;
- A local match of 20% of the grant funds requested is required. Other state and federal dollars cannot be used to match;
- An applicant may request a maximum of \$150,000;
- Administrative costs of the project may not exceed 10% of the project budget and operational costs such as rent, utilities, and insurance are not permitted; and
- Funds cannot be used to purchase, build, or improve a facility.



About OCRA: The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs was created in 2005, making rural areas a priority for the first time in Indiana's history. Under the leadership of Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, OCRA strives to assist rural communities in achieving their own visions for economic development.

***To learn more about Rural Capacity Grants, please visit:
www.ocra.IN.gov***